

## U.S. Appln. No. 09/343,517

an IP interface overlaid over said second communications protocol at selective ones of

~~said plurality of routers.~~

means for providing said second communications protocol; and

an IP interface overlaid over said second communications protocol at selective ones of said plurality of routers.

15 (Amended). The medium of claim 14, wherein a router directly connected to said first IP device comprises a local gateway and a router directly connected to said second IP device comprises a remote gateway, wherein the overlaid IP interface co-exists with said second communications protocol in said local gateway and said remote gateway, said overlaid IP interface comprises:

an IP tunnel interface comprising a network address for uniquely identifying the remote gateway in the second communications protocol, an interface number for reaching said network address, and an IP address for said second IP device to transmit an IP packet.